

Pediatric Constraint Induced Therapy for Children with Hemiparesis

Cassandra O'Rourke, OTR/L & Linda Correia, OTR/L (1.5 hours)

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Review of current theories of neuroplasticity and a brief analysis of existing constraint literature and clinical approaches.
2. Review of pediatric upper extremity functional outcome tools.
3. Introduction to an intensive pediatric constraint therapy model and recent clinical findings.

Individuals with hemiparesis, either congenital or acquired, have limited functional use of their involved upper extremity. Traditional approaches have addressed these functional limitations with inconsistent improvements in function. Based on current theories of neuroplasticity, the constraint therapy model has been shown to be effective in some adult neurological populations using several different clinical protocols. More recently, similar findings have been documented in the pediatric population. This presentation will highlight an intensive pediatric CIMT model.

Writing Life: Using Memoir & Fiction In Treatment.

Amy Soscia Paloski, MA, BC-DMT, MS, OTR/L (1.5 hours)

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify at least three benefits individuals can gain from creative writing as a form of OT treatment.
2. Identify at least three cognitive deficits that can be addressed through creative writing.
3. Demonstrate three writing techniques that can be incorporated into OT treatment.

Writing Life: Using Memoir & Fiction In Occupational Therapy will examine the cognitive, psychological, physical and developmental aspects of writing as treatment for individuals with brain injury or mental illness. Specific attention will be paid to the relationship between the writing process and executive function skills utilized for learning.

Occupational Therapy at the Core of Neurorehabilitation.

Wally VanDyck, OTR/L (1.5 hours)

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the synergistic interaction of body structures (pelvis, spine, and scapula) in normal posture and mobility.
2. Identify 2 patterns of altered postural alignment resulting from abnormal muscle tone.
3. Understand the use of core exercise including rotation to optimize posture, balance, and mobility during ADL.

Survivors of CVA and TBI can face a lifetime of overcoming barriers to participation in meaningful occupations. This presentation will use colorful original graphic illustrations and demonstration to promote an in depth understanding of normal posture and mobility performance skills. Interventions that can prevent changes to body structures from becoming barriers to function will be emphasized. Content will reference the Practice Framework and can be generalized to a range of ages, and disabilities.

Car Fit Technician Training Workshop

Joanne S. Jones, MS, OTR/L & Karen Morgenstein, COTA/L (4.0 hours)

(signing up for this encompasses all 3 conference sessions)

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Understand how older drivers can improve their safety by ensuring their cars are properly adjusted for them.

2. Perform the tasks required of a trained CarFit technician to ensure that each participant "fit" their vehicle properly for maximum comfort and safety.
3. Promote conversations about driver safety and community mobility.

CarFit is an educational program that helps mature drivers find out how well they currently fit their automobile, and promotes conversations about driver safety and community mobility. This workshop will prepare participants to become trained CarFit technicians in order to participate in future CarFit events within the community. No experience in driver rehabilitation is required. See CarFit.org for more information.

Oral motor Interventions the OT SLP Treatment Dance

Michael Smith MS, CCC-SLP and Lisa Edwards, OTR/L (1.0 hour)

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify practical ways to address oral motor deficits during treatment planning
2. Identify roles of OTs and SLPs in the area of oral motor development and treatment
3. Develop goals and treatment ideas for both oral motor and sensory motor skills that will be effective in both individual and co-treatment models among school age children

This presentation will explore the many similarities, as well as differences between the roles of Occupational Therapists and Speech Language Pathologists in the area of oral/sensory motor development. With some simple planning and open minds, a great deal can be accomplished when working together to treat oral motor delays as well as sensory issues related to oral motor development. This presentation will address role delineation, basic oral motor development, and practical treatment planning as well as goal development and possible co-treatment ideas.

Minds on the Edge

Susan Higgins, MA, OTR/L and Brett Brumbaugh, MS, OTR/L (2.5 hours)

(signing up for this encompasses the 2nd and 3rd conference sessions)

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Explore personal views and values around serious mental illness and treatment.
2. Identify the challenges faced by individuals with severe mental illness and identify ways to improve obtaining mental health services.
3. Identify the role of OT practitioners in meeting the needs of clients with severe mental illness and describe various resources available locally and nationally.

“Minds on the Edge” is a thought provoking video that breaks the “silence” around serious mental illness. Serious mental illness touches all of our lives, including our family members, our neighbors and our clients. With an understanding of legislative and health care system obstacles, occupational therapy practitioners, regardless of practice setting, can address mental health issues and advocate for the needs of their clients. This presentation will include a screening of the PBS program “Minds on the Edge”, followed by a panel discussion of ways to improve support and treatment for those with serious mental illness, including the role of OT in addressing mental health across the age and health care continuum.

Musculoskeletal Problems in the Aging Population

Philip R Lucas, MD (1.0 hour) overhead projector

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify orthopedic problems common among older adults
2. Describe pathophysiology of aging and the impact on musculoskeletal problems
3. Identify treatment options for the orthopedic problems common among older adults

This presentation will provide an overview of the orthopedic problems encountered by the aging population. This presentation will discuss the pathophysiology of aging with an emphasis on specific musculoskeletal conditions. Various treatment options will be discussed including prevention, non-surgical, and surgical methods.

Performance-Based OT Assessment for Preschool and School Age Children

Sharon L. Dunn, M.A., OTR/L (1.5hours)

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify "best practice" in school-based assessment
2. Prioritize assessment needs to be assessed and how best to assess those areas
3. Be able to implement school-based observations and evaluations

Performance-based OT assessments are an essential piece of the pediatric OT practitioners intervention plan. This presentation will discuss school-based assessments, areas of assessment, how to prioritize what needs to be assessed, and strategies for assessment.

Functional Visual Skills: Assessment and Treatment Strategies

Rachel Vitello, OTR/L (1.5 hours)

Learning Objectives: At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify clinical implications of functional visual skills (i.e. tracking, saccades, etc.) and their impact on therapy
2. Identify techniques for assessing functional visual skills
3. Identify treatment strategies as an adjunct to therapy

This presentation will review basic functional visual skills and how they impact therapy goals. Assessing functional visual skills and treatment strategies to improve therapy outcomes will be a main focus of this presentation. Assessment of skills is applicable to children and adults; while treatment strategies are appropriate to the pediatric population, but can be modified for the adult population as well.